

# Notes for Special General Meeting

**Saturday 14 March 2:30 pm**

in the Main Room at the Centre. 401 Whitehead Road, Hastings.

The following is a **COMMENTARY** on the Proposed Replacement Rules of the renamed HB Branch of the ASNZ (to be known as “Anthroposophy Hawke’s Bay”).

As a **Charitable organisation**, we, as a Society, are required by the Charities Commission to review our **Constitution** or **Rules** (as laid down in the Trust Deed) every 3 years to ensure that they are still “fit for purpose”. As we need to do this quite soon – before the end of this Financial Year [31 March], the Committee is calling a **SGM** for this purpose on 14 March.

The Committee has spent several meetings looking over our existing Rules and have come up with suggestions for improvements.

The **existing Rules**, established in 2008, can be read here in **AHB Rules (2008 Trust Deed)**.

The **Committee’s suggestions** are shown **highlighted** in **PROPOSED AHB REPLACEMENT RULES** - see attached “**AHB Rules proposed amendments 11 February 2026**”.

I will try to explain the Committee’s reasons for change, using the clause numbers.

**1.1** The name of the Society is long and cumbersome – 11 words and 68 characters. This was brought to our attention when the banks introduced checks that a bank account number was correctly linked with the name of the owner of the account. We feel that “**Anthroposophy Hawke’s Bay**” provides the essential information, and it is the name we use in our weekly Newsletters.

**2.4** The Branch Society in the original Rules is effectively a “grandchild” – the Parent being the ASNZ, and the Grandparent being the **GAS (General Anthroposophical Society)** which was formed over a hundred years ago, originally as an organisation formed to **build** the Goetheanum. Rule 2.4 states that a Member of the AHB must be a Member of the GAS. Grandchildren tend to grow up and seek some independence. So, we, as a grandchild society, would like to introduce a **Clause 2.5** whereby people who have not yet made the international commitment required for membership of the **GAS** can **register** their interest in the AHB activities by becoming a “**Friend**”.

**3.1** The Objects and Purposes mention neither Hawke’s Bay nor the provision and maintenance of a Centre or Rooms for members to meet, which is a major element of what we currently do.

**4.1** The power to ‘rent rooms’ (allowed as an ancillary non-charitable activity [Charities Act 2005]) is specifically added as this has been a practice for quite a few years now.

**5.1** Replaced the word “**deemed**” with “**eligible**” from the membership conditions, as this formulation does not require a person to take any **action** to become a member (that is, it is an entirely passive / mechanical process – which is not our idea of “anthroposophical”).

Indeed, the tenor of recent NZ legislation regarding incorporated societies is that **intending members** actually specifically apply for membership, not be automatically ‘deemed’ to be a member according to some ‘**condition**’ e.g. being a member of another organisation.

On perusing the Constitution/Rules, it seems that the main right conferred on members [Clause 6.8] is the right to **vote** at General Meetings of the Society. There is no financial benefit for Members. Virtually all meetings and events organised by the Committee or AHB members is open to the public.

**5.4** **Despite** the requirement in 5.1, the Committee is able to **expel** a “deemed” member from the AHB – this does not make sense – are we “un-deeming” them?

Membership is acknowledged with a signed, dated and numbered *pink* Card. Do we take this card from them or ask it to be returned somewhere?

Anyway, we feel that such drastic action needs to be taken only by a **General Meeting**.

Conversely, under current Rules it would seem that **IF** a Member is **excluded from the ASNZ**, then they are automatically excluded from the AHB. ***This is a current problem.*** It needs to be resolved a.s.a.p.

There is considerable confusion about the difference between being a **member of a Society** and being an ‘anthroposophist’ (spiritual scientist) – that is being **part of a movement**.

People can *acknowledge to themselves* [know thyself] their interest and **spiritual** engagement with Anthroposophy – this is purely personal, as an individual! [Ethical Individualism]. But it is not the same as becoming a member of a **Society** – that requires **worldly** action – the action of joining with others for a particular **purpose**, which may be “cultivating a community of human beings who desire to further the life of soul” – see Clause 3.1

This joining involves **communicating** and **contributing** by *deed* and *financially* to meet the needs of the Society.

It seems to us that currently our list of members contains the names of a number of people who, we believe, consider themselves to be Anthroposophists [having pink cards], **but** who

do not contribute to or communicate with either ASNZ or AHB – who therefore do not **act** as members of either Society.

**5.6; 5.7** This rule requires us to have the **residential/postal address** of members. For quite a while now our only means of contact has not been by post nor residential delivery but by **email**, so this is the data we collect, as this is all we need. There are only a few on our list who do not have an email address. A few years ago, AHB used to circulate a list of members and friends with **Address, Email and Phone**. More recently, some members have been concerned with privacy and have not wanted their details circulated. So, there is a question about how members can get to know who other members of AHB are and how they may contact them? Perhaps, of more relevance would be a requirement for Members of the GAS, who apply to become a member of “Anthroposophy Hawke’s Bay”, to provide the information on their pink Membership card, namely their Membership number and the date of acceptance.

**5.8** There is an interesting principle behind this proposal for change. It regards the process of asking members to make a set annual financial contribution as agreed at the Society’s **Annual General Meeting**. Certainly the **AGM** needs to agree on a financial Budget for the coming year for the guidance of the Committee.

We would like to see a change of **emphasis** more in line with the anthroposophical striving for true, personal, spiritual freedom. This freedom can be described as *‘the cultivation of inner moral autonomy through conscious, self-aware thinking and understanding one’s own motives, leading to actions guided by spiritual insight rather than unconscious impulses or external compulsion, a process termed ethical individualism where individuals develop their unique spiritual paths to benefit humanity.’* We see this being achieved by the Treasurer informing all members (who may not have attended the AGM, of the foreseen or budgeted financial needs of the Society for the coming year. Each member could exercise their “freedom” by making a financial pledge or offer of support for the Society within, say, 3 months of the AGM.

5.9 (c) \*new\* **The Membership of any member who neither contributes or communicates with an officer of the Society over a period of 24 months will be terminated. They may rejoin by re-applying for membership and making a donation.**

Modifications in the remainder of the document are related to electronic and digital communication and record keeping.

Drafted by Robin Bacchus,

22 February 2026